

THIRD EDITION



HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF
BURUNDI

ELLEN K. EGGERS

Historical Dictionary of Burundi

Third Edition

Ellen K. Eggers



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For Paul

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I. INTRODUCTION

This bibliography is an attempt to list as many sources on Burundi as possible, but it is by no means exhaustive. Since Burundi's independence in 1962, there have been slightly more sources in English than there were before, and since 1990, there have been even more—but this is not to say that there are many. Most of the primary sources describing the history, culture, and language of the country are in untranslated French, and, sadly, many of the English sources have emerged only because of Burundi's several periods of civil unrest since its independence. During Burundi's most recent

civil war (1993–2005), there was increased intervention and interest from other countries in the region and throughout the world, explaining the increase of English sources. Some publications that regularly cover Burundi news and political analysis include *Africa Report*, *Issue*, and *Africa Today*; in addition, occasional articles appear in such general news periodicals as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Nation*, *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*.

With the increased international interest has also come increased, specialized responses to the Burundi conflict and its resolution. Such human rights organizations as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International regularly publish reports and analyses of the country and the region. These are available both in print and electronically. Other international organizations such as the United States Institute for Peace and the Nelson Mandela Foundation have also covered Burundi's emergence from civil unrest. The United Nations Integrated Regional and International News Network (IRIN) is a wealth of current news, covering a wide range of political analyses, profiles of political leaders, and personal stories. People of Burundi operate a website specifically designed to keep the world current on national issues; this can be accessed at www.abarundi.org and is updated regularly. The popular search engine Google provides a valuable service to researchers: one can register with them at no cost to receive daily news on any designated subject. Each day provides current news from publications around the world, including many mentioned here.

There are very few comprehensive bibliographies on Burundi and very few collections of primary materials. Some useful sources, however, include the Africa Library in Brussels and the Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. In North America, there is the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where part of the historical Derscheid Collection is available. This collection is probably still one of the best known primary collections on Burundi. Fortunately, the modern researcher has the advantage of highly efficient interlibrary loan systems throughout the world.

There have been several general histories of Burundi written in English, and some of these have been especially useful in compiling this dictionary and bibliography. Listed in this bibliography are numerous books and articles by two prolific Africa researchers, René Lemarchand

and Warren Weinstein. Professor Lemarchand's *Rwanda and Burundi* (1970) is an excellent source of information on the general details of history and culture of the two countries up until that time; it also includes a limited but very useful bibliography. Thirty-five years later, Lemarchand is still examining the intricacies of the country and the motivations behind its political and social development. Weinstein's books and articles spanning the last 30 years provide insight into Burundi's international relations.

Sources on Burundi's economy remain scarce, as do sources specifically dealing with the language and literature of the country. A few researchers are prominent in these narrower areas: Jan Vansina for cultural anthropology and oral literary history, and Ethel Albert, F. Rodegem, A. A. Trouwborst, R. Bourgeois, and Jean-Pierre Chrétien for sociology, cultural anthropology, and literary and language history. Few of these are current; the modern researcher will find more information in these areas in some of the electronic sources listed above.

This bibliography is divided into 14 sections in an attempt to make it useful to readers with different purposes; other researchers might divide the sources differently, but these are the categories that seemed to emerge naturally as the dictionary was being formed. The first two sections include the general history of Burundi specifically and of the region, because so much of Burundi's development is entwined with other countries in the region (particularly Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa). The next three sections of the bibliography divide Burundi's history temporally: precolonial history, which includes some works on the early exploration of the region; colonial history, which includes works on both the German and Belgian occupations of the region; and postcolonial history, which covers Burundi's history and political affairs up to the present time. The following section covers economics and development. Section VIII is on linguistics and covers language issues falling under the current definition of the field: all issues of language, including its discourse structure and influence on social aspects of a people. The next two sections cover verbal, musical, visual, and written arts and general sociology. Section XI is on religion and includes works on traditional as well as imported religion. The remaining sections cover international relations, education, geography, geology, agriculture, health, and medicine.

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